

tamarisciata Freyer, the Cornish Tamarisk Pug, recorded by Tutt (1906; 1908) from larvae collected by Holmes in Cornwall at the beginning of the century. G. Prior (pers. comm.) also found an *E. fraxinata* larva on Cornish tamarisk in September 1979 and the identification of the resulting imago was confirmed by myself. The existence and status of the tamarisk-feeding race of *E. fraxinata* in Britain should be further investigated as it appears to have been overlooked in the more recent literature.

Thanks are extended to R. Austin for his help and advice on Guernsey Lepidoptera and the status of ash and sea buckthorn on the island and to G. Prior for allowing examination of his Cornish *E. fraxinata*.

References. Tutt, J.W. (1906). A puzzling group of Eupitheciids. *Ent. Rec.* **18**: 157-158. Tutt, J.W. (1908). *Eupithecia tamarisciata* as a British insect. *Ent. Rec.* **20**: 102-104.- ADRIAN M. RILEY, Dept. Entomology and Nematology, AFRC Inst. Arable crops Research, Rothamsted Exp. Stn., Harpenden, Herts AL5 2JQ.

Insects and swimming pools

I was interested to read the correspondence (*Ent. Rec.* **102**: 4; **102**: 152) on the question of Purple Hairstreaks and swimming pools, and that both writers should ascribe the attraction of the pool to its blueness.

I have abundant evidence for the attractiveness of sky-blue to beetles, although I have no knowledge either of its mechanism nor the more general understanding of it. It may however be reasoned that changes in the quality or density of air over a large pool could influence flying insects to land in it.

On 21st July 1990 the following beetles were attracted to our sky-blue sun-bed cover at Little Comberton between 20.00 -21.45 BST:

Anotylus tetracarinus (Block) 2, *Gabrius pennatus* Sharp 1, *Tachinus signatus* (Grav.) 3, *Atheta laticollis* (Ste.) 1, *Epuraea unicolor* (Ol.) 1, *Glischrochilus hortensis* (Fourc.) 3, *Monotoma longicollis* (Gyll.), *Cryptolestes ferrugineus* (Ste.) 2, *Atomaria lewisi* Reitt. 2, *Typhaea stercorea* (L.) 1.

My sky-blue parasol that apologises for a beating tray distinguishes itself in a number of ways. Once, whilst inside a hollow oak, hearing an unusual sound, I glanced outside and found that it had opened spontaneously causing a herd of cows to stampede. Its more usual source of interest however arises from the number of insects that fly into it when left opened. Amongst beetles I recall in particular *Paromalus flavicornis* (Hbst.) and *Dorcatoma chrysomelina* Stm. All of this supports a possibility that the attraction is colour-based.

The beetle *Meligethes aeneus* (F.) has a particular perception of colour occurring in prodigious numbers on such yellow flowers as *Hemerocallis* and *Centaurea macrocephala* Muss. Pushk. and on such purple ones as *Allium giganteum* Regel. In 1988, over 10,000 *M. aeneus* were in one blue pool in Worcestershire.— P.F. WHITEHEAD, Moors Ley, Little Comberton, Worcestershire WR10 3EP.